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FRONT RANGE FLYER

302nd Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve Command

Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

*Medics train
for any scenario*

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Front Range Flyer
Vol. 20, No. 12
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302nd Airlift Wing Web sites

Internal

<https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil/302aw/welcome.htm>

External

<http://www.afrc.af.mil/302AW>

Reaching out to care for our 'family'

By Brig. Gen. William P. Kane

302nd AW commander

As I prepared a holiday message for this month's editorial, I received a note from the spouse of one of our deployed people. She described a situation in which some projects around the house didn't get finished before her husband left and as a result some railings were missing from her porch. Their son was hurt because of the missing railing. She wrote to tell me about how some members of the shop came over and fixed the porch to keep her kids safe.

She also shared some other generous acts by shop members and to express her thanks for being surrounded by such generous folks.

Her letter reminded me how valuable it is to those members who are deployed to know that their families are being looked after. As we approach the holiday season this becomes particularly true. We need to look after one another both here and overseas. I am thankful that our wing does that.

Her letter reminded me also of the many other selfless acts that I have heard of and of many that have gone unreported. I really appreciate the good samaritans who are reaching out to help the deployed families. I am thankful our people do that.

Her letter also reminded me of the joy I felt when our first airplanes and our first deployers returned and when our aerial porters returned from their year-long deployment. The joy of the reunions was a powerful moment for everyone there. We were all thankful that they returned home safe and sound.

In the end, her letter reminded me that although I fret about our deployed personnel and their families and am equally thankful that they are deploying with an exceptionally professional team, I am thankful that we have a wing that looks after each other. Finally, I am thankful that, for some at least, the deployment is over and they are home – proud of the job they did, but glad to be back with their families.

Happy holidays.

Sacrifice – it takes a family

By Chief Master Sgt. Eric Cook

302nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

In the wake of our wing's mobilization and with the holidays upon us, my thoughts are directed to the service and sacrifice of our deployed members and, especially, their families.

November was Military Family Month. As I compose this article on Veteran's Day, I can't help but think about what the families of our service members, past and present, have done and sacrificed that have directly contributed to our freedoms and life as we know them.

While the sacrifices made by the men and women in uniform are more easily identified than those of their parents, spouses, and children, both are invaluable to our nation. Strong families ensure a



Family continued on page 11

On the cover



ASTS to the rescue

Senior Airman Savina Giron, 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, aerospace medical service technician, comes to the aid of a victim (Staff Sgt. Sherrelle Barta) during a mass casualty exercise. For more, see page 7. (U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Jody Ritchie)

UTA Schedule

Next UTA: Dec. 3-4

Jan. 7-8

Feb. 11-12

March 4-5

The next UTA schedule is printed in more detail on page 14. The *Front Range Flyer* is mailed each month to all 302nd Airlift Wing members on file with Personnel Systems. If you are not receiving your magazine, check with your orderly room or administration section to ensure your address is correct.

Do you hear what I hear?

By Chaplain (Capt.)
Tim Wilson
302nd AW chaplain

It was a dreary day in downtown New York City. The mood was solemn, as the Soviet Union had positioned missiles on the tiny island of Cuba well within the striking range of the American homeland.

For the first time in human history the possibility of super powers destroying the earth in a matter of seconds became very real. Teaching school children to hide under desks in case of nuclear attack would not come close to solving this atomic conundrum and, to top it all off, Christmas was coming.

Noel Regney paid the bills by writing songs. He had composed a number of catchy commercial jingles, even some television show themes. He was most proud of songs like *What is the Use of Crying* and *Rain, Rain, Go Away* that made the radio charts.

This Christmas season added

weight to Noel's already heavy heart. The world just didn't seem like a hospitable place anymore, there was more bad than good, more to worry about – a nightmare seemed just a breath away. To his sheer misery one of his biggest clients hired him to write a song, but just not any song. It had to be a Christmas song.

A Christmas song in the middle of a nuclear crisis, Noel just could find no inspiration. The harder he tried the more cynical he became. Themes of commercialism with the backdrop of world annihilation swirled in his mind. A dark song of protest or even a sardonic ditty on despair, that he could write, but a Christmas carol, it just wouldn't come.

Waking home down 52nd Street, Noel happened to pass by two mothers, visiting, with their baby strollers parked beside each other. There, on the cold, discolored concrete sidewalk, two little ones were having the time of their lives as they smiled and laughed with each

other. There on a busy, noisy street, unnoticed by most, was a world of innocent joy, a child's place filled subtle serenity. A gentle feeling of renewed hope washed over Noel. All was not lost.

Hurrying home, words and rhythms unfolded in his mind. Putting the pencil down after jotting down the last verse of his new Christmas song, a quiet joy streamed into his soul. "Said the king to the people everywhere, Listen to what I say! Pray for peace, people, everywhere. Listen to what I say! The Child, the Child sleeping in the night, he will bring us goodness and light, he will bring us goodness and light."

Noel found that in the most complicated of times there are still simple places where joy thrives and peace prevails, hidden oases that remind us about what is good and right about life.

Having a hard time getting into the Christmas spirit? Feeling a bit alone, maybe even a



little cynical? Problems, scheduling difficulties, shopping - all the hustle and bustle have you down? Could it be you need to slow down and listen to Noel Regney's *Do You Hear What I Hear*?

There is "A song, a song, high above the trees, with a voice as big as the sea." It is a song of peace, a song of joy as innocent as a child's smile; it's a song of renewed hope for the future. It's the song of the angels on that first Christmas morn. "Don't be afraid, I bring good news of great joy which shall be to all people!"

Great joy, the promise of a wonderful tomorrow, future hope – do you hear what Noel Regney heard? Listen closely. You can hear the song of joy in the most unexpected of places in the most difficult of times.

302nd Airlift Wing Holiday Party

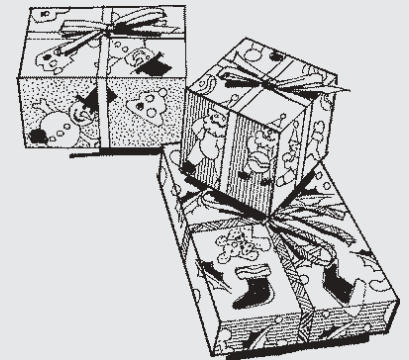
Saturday, Dec. 3
2-4 p.m.
Bldg. 210, Bay 1

*Holiday music provided by
the Air Force Academy Band*

Parents may bring a gift to be presented to their child by Santa Claus, but are asked to keep the cost below \$15.

To help pay for food, master sergeants and senior master sergeants are asked to donate \$5; lieutenants and captains are asked to donate \$10, majors and above are asked to donate \$15 and commanders are asked to donate \$20

Presented by 302nd Airlift Wing Chiefs Group



Return requires post-deployment medical process

By Col. Karen Baldi

*302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron,
chief of aerospace medicine*

The post-deployment medical process begins while still in theater with the completion of the DD Form 2796, Post-Deployment Health Assessment.

Upon return to Peterson Air Force Base, members must turn in their medical record to the 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, and within 30 days, must report to the lab for a blood draw.

Public Health will determine

any further requirements based on location of deployment and exposures. For example, malaria pills and TB testing may be needed. For any Line of Duty illness or injury the member must see a physician for an evaluation, profiling, and to initiate the paperwork.

A recent addition has been made to this process and includes a Post-Deployment Health Reassessment, DD Form 2900. The member will be notified by their unit health monitor to log onto the website and complete the form on line.

The questionnaire should be

completed between 90 and 180 days after returning to home station. The purpose is to detect any medical problems which show up well after the deployment. The web site is the same as that for the physical exam questionnaire; <https://www.wbts.afrc.af.mil>. Click on the RCPHA logo, then click the questionnaire button. From there look further down the pick list to "Post-Deployment Health Re-Assessment (DD 2900)." You will need your social security number, date of birth and date of rank.

All of the pre- and post-de-

ployment medical forms are required for any deployment over 30 days outside the continental United States. They are sent to the Army Medical Surveillance Activity at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and a copy will be placed in the member's permanent medical record. This documents and tracks any concerns, assessments and referrals made in relationship to deployments.

More information can be found at <http://www.pdhealth.mil>. For any questions contact the deployment monitor at the 302nd ASTS at 556-1137.

Maintaining security helps ensure peaceful voting in Iraq

By Maj. Keith Sudder

14th Test Squadron

BAGHDAD, Iraq – As a deployed reservist at the Iraqi National Joint Operations Center in Baghdad, I was part of a team whose efforts led to a successful Iraqi constitutional referendum vote on Oct. 15.

Since June 25, I've been attached to the 53rd Headquarters Army Liaison Team stationed in Baghdad, serving as the elections officer and day shift officer in charge.

The NJOC served as the network control station during the referendum voting and provided key insight on all the provinces throughout Iraq. Iraqi and 53rd HQ Army Liaison

Team personnel worked side-by-side throughout the day providing the prime minister of Iraq and Coalition Forces Headquar-

ters with information on each of the 17 provinces' security situations, voter turn-out and overall climate assessment.

The day of the referendum was one of concern for everyone in Iraq. The focus was on the security situation and how to safely execute the vote for more than nine million voters.

Throughout the day the team kept in constant contact with Iraq's 17 provinces.

Key information being passed from the provinces to the NJOC for dissemination included stability of polling centers, estimated percentage of

voter turnout, attacks occurring throughout the country and constant vigilance of communications ability.

With few insurgent attacks, the team took advantage of the opportunity and used a unique tracking sheet to keep tabs on the nationwide climate. This served as the initial assessment of the security situation at each polling center.

The NJOC's duty began months prior for this once in a lifetime opportunity to be the primary center for Referendum Day – the first day Iraqi citizens could openly vote for their own constitution. My role was to establish the ground-laying network that devised the security and communications plan.

Throughout the planning phase, the NJOC led the flawless execution of the Iraqi and U.S. security forces' presence at more than 6,000 polling centers. Numerous exercises were held prior to the vote to develop a seamless team of Iraqi and U.S. personnel.

With the successful vote over the NJOC team now has its eyes set on the national elections to be held in December. This event will allow me the unique opportunity to be a part of the first-ever Middle East constitution and the first free general election of officials under Iraq's new government.



***39th Aerial Port Squadron members
return from 10-month deployment***

See back cover



Senior recruiter targets specific career fields

By Tech. Sgt. David D. Morton
Front Range Flyer

The 302nd Airlift Wing's new senior recruiter couldn't have arrived at his new assignment at a more challenging time. The recruiting office had just received the Air Force Reserve Command Outstanding Operating Location Award for fiscal year 2005 in October. The recruiters also won numerous individual awards for achieving overall recruiting goals for the year.

At the beginning of the calendar year, the Air Force Reserve Command established a goal of 221 recruiting accessions for the office. The goal was exceeded when the office secured 360 accessions on the year. Attaining 163 percent over the stated goal was the

highest overall percentage of accessions in recruiting for the year. Accessions are personnel assigned or enlisted in the Air Force Reserve that have no effect on the drill pay floor.

"This office has done well for the past couple of years," said Senior Master Sgt. Henry Lewis, the new senior recruiter for the 302nd AW. "I've definitely got big shoes to fill."

Sergeant Lewis, who ar-

Senior recruiter
continued on page 10



Senior Master Sgt. Henry Lewis, 302nd Airlift Wing, senior recruiter, plans to give new life to the "Get One" program in his office. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. David D. Morton)

Mission support commander ready to take on challenge

By Tech. Sgt. David D. Morton
Front Range Flyer

Sometimes, positive opportunities can evolve from the most adverse situations. Ask Maj. Joe D. Colunga, 302nd Mission Support Flight commander, who ac-

cepted his new position during a brief change of command ceremony Nov. 5.

The opportunity to take command of the 302nd MSF didn't come without challenge. The main obstacle Major Colunga had to overcome was transfer-

ring his family and belongings to the Colorado Springs area from hurricane ravaged Louisiana where he was serving with the 926th Fighter Wing at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, New Orleans.

"People on the base prepared well for the hurricane," said the major. "Local residents assumed the hurricane would redirect itself, or miss the area all together, which had happened many times in the past. I was already selected for this position, but had to evacuate to Dallas-Fort Worth for a week before coming here. My permanent change of station came up while in place. Hurricane Katrina taught me the need for a good backup plan. Hope for the best, but always have at least two or three contingency plans in place."

The major plans to employ those same philosophies here.

"I expect people to know their jobs and processes.

I'm not the expert, but plan to rely on the expertise of the non-commissioned officers in the flight," said Major Colunga. "There's always room for improvement and learning to contribute to the mission. The MSF has untapped potential to serve the wing, the command, Air Force and the nation as a whole."

Originally from Brownsville, Texas, Major Colunga spent 14 years on active duty with assignments at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska; Patrick AFB, Fla.; Maxwell AFB, Ala.; and Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Aside from commanding the 302nd MSF, he will also serve in an air reserve technician capacity as the wing's director of personnel.

"I'm very fortunate to be here. As long as I can contribute I want to be the number one MSF in the command," said Major Colunga. "I believe this flight has the potential to do it. If you keep a positive attitude you'll recognize the opportunities when they present themselves, no matter what obstacles."



Lt. Col. Michael J. McCully (left), 302nd Mission Support Group commander, prepares to pass the guidon of the 302nd Mission Support Flight to Maj. Joe D. Colunga. Also pictured is Master Sgt. Ana Dominguez, 302nd MSF, chief of personnel employment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Robb Lingley, 21st Space Communications Squadron)

Wing detachment earns squadron status

By Tech. Sgt. Tim Taylor
Front Range Flyer

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY – The name has changed, but the job is the same. Once just a detachment, the 70th Flying Training Squadron will continue to help U.S. Air Force Academy cadets gain experience flying and parachuting.

Formerly the 302nd Operations Group, Detachment 1, the members of the 70th FTS will work with the cadet glider, parachute, and flying programs. The squadron also assists with the flight screening required for a cadet to enter the Undergraduate Pilot Training program.

Reservists like Lt. Col. Ted Brewer, 70th FTS commander, have been augmenting active-duty instructors at the academy for more than 10 years.

The unit became a detachment in June 2004 and part of the 302nd Airlift Wing. On Oct. 25, the wing received its newest squadron with the 70th FTS re-activation ceremony.

Through training conducted by both active-duty and Reserve instructors, academy cadets learn how to pre-flight, maintain, and fly, and could even become flight instructors in a sailplane or become jumpmasters. Those learning to jump could have an opportunity to join a



Maj. Bill Gagen, 70th Flying Training Squadron, TG10 instructor pilot and training officer, climbs out of the student pilot seat of a TG10B trainer prior to giving an orientation flight at the U.S. Air Force Academy airfield Oct. 18. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Tim Taylor)

Wings of Blue jump team, of which the academy has two.

The squadron's instructors bring years of experience to the academy, which will benefit the cadets' learning process. And, unlike active duty members, who change stations every three or four years, reservists tend to stay at one location for longer periods of time.

"We bring not only experience but we bring stability so we have that continuity over a period of time," said Brig. Gen. William P. Kane, 302nd AW commander.

The general also noted that the presence of the 70th FTS will give cadets exposure to the Reserve, which may be an option for their Air Force careers down

the road.

The 70th FTS has a history dating back 65 years to when it was the 70th Bombardment Squadron. It became the 70th Flying Training Squadron in 1972, but had been inactivated for almost 30 years before being resurrected as part of the 302nd.

The squadron currently has about 30 reservists assigned.

Senior recruiter continued from page 6

arrived at the wing following more than two years of duty as the assistant Senior recruiter at Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., will go about filling those shoes by reinvigorating the command's "Get One" program.

"We're going to use the Get

One program for primarily manning the wing," said Sergeant Lewis. "There will be more recruiter visibility within the individual squadrons, and we're going to be targeting specific recruiting vacancies. Instead of shotgunning, or just acquiring bodies, our office will be filling needs for the specific career fields identified as short on manning."

Familiarity with the area should help Sergeant Lewis achieve his recruiting objectives.

"I was assigned to Hill Air Force Base as a health-professions recruiter in 2000-2003," he said. "Peterson AFB was within my area of responsibility and I recruited for the 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron."

Sergeant Lewis has been a

recruiter since 1996, and entered the Air Force Reserve in October 1994 at Charleston AFB, S.C. He initially entered active duty in 1989, and was assigned to Lowry AFB, Colo., in the supply career field.

"It's great to be back in the area," said Sergeant Lewis. "I could not have asked for a better assignment than to be here at the 302nd AW."

Medics assess strengths, weaknesses during exercise

By Airman 1st Class Jessica E. Andrews
302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron
unit public affairs representative

The calm of a November afternoon was interrupted with, "There's been a bus rollover! Everyone get down here, we need help now!"

Most unit members of the 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron were caught completely off guard, with no preparation or idea of what to expect.

Everyone frantically coordinated relief efforts and jumped on the back of a truck that led them to the scene, located near the northwest corner of Peterson Air Force Base. Upon arrival they found "victims" lying all about, some still in the bus and others strewn about in the field. Just about every kind of patient injury was present for unit members to assess and treat.

You could hear one very pregnant woman lying in the dirt screaming, "I'm gonna die here, help my baby!" Her leg was badly burned and she was 32 weeks along in the pregnancy.

The range of victims included anyone from a burn victim wandering around in shock to someone holding onto an arm that



Left to right, Senior Airman Jamie Johnson, 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, aeromedical service helper, Senior Airman Antawn Keller, 302nd ASTS, medical service journeyman, and Staff Sgt. Joseph Schwartz, 302nd ASTS, aeromedical service technician, transport a crash victim on a litter. (U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Jody Ritchie)

had been detached.

As horrible as this all sounds, it was just a drill. This was the first training session in a series to prepare the ASTS team for both

overseas duties and homeland duties such as a natural disaster or terrorist attack.

Maj. Steven Farkas, 302nd ASTS flight surgeon, was the triage officer at the scene. He was constantly assessing the situation. He could be heard asking, "Who's in the worst shape? Who needs to be loaded last?" He navigated the scene effortlessly and appointed jobs to everyone.

Second Lt. Barbara Bell, 302nd ASTS clinical nurse, and Capt. Brooks Elkins, 302nd ASTS health services administrator, were the main coordinators in this exercise. Lieutenant Bell was evaluating the team's strengths and weaknesses.

"The exercise went very well," she said. "It's difficult to take people from their natural environment and throw them into a mass casualty situation, no matter how you're trained."

Chief Master Sgt. Stephanie Pauley, 302nd ASTS enlisted manager, observed the entire exercise and learned a lot about the unit's capabilities.

"The scenario that Captain Elkins picked was very good," she said. "It was the first time we did this away from the hospital – very realistic."



Senior Airman Carolina Atoche (right), 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, aeromedical service apprentice, assists a crash victim (Master Sgt. Richele Beckett). (U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Jody Ritchie)



Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Development Program

The 302nd Airlift Wing held its first Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Development Program class for fiscal year 2006 recently. Graduates of NCOLDP Class 06-01 are (left to right) Senior Airman Chris Traut, 731st Airlift Squadron; Staff Sgt. Conrad Dawes, 8th Space Warning Squadron; Staff Sgt. Giel Boles, 731st AS; Tech. Sgt. Tracy White, 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Margaret Alire, 302nd Civil Engineer Squadron; Senior Airman VuongVu Le, 302nd Airlift Wing; Staff Sgt. Kelly Sisavaddy, 302nd Operations Support Flight; Tech Sgt. Charlie Meuser, 302nd Logistics Readiness Squadron; Senior Airman Fiaui Taase, 731st AS; Tech. Sgt. Tracy League, 731st AS; Senior Airman John Kaleo Aona, 731st AS. (U.S. Air Force photo by Rob Bussard, 21st Space Communications Squadron)

AFRC switches to Web-based education system

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Air Force reservists can now track their education progress, request transcripts, and update personal education information on the Web.

Going through the Air Force Portal, and accessing the Virtual Education Center's Web site – <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> –

saves reservists time and money as they will now be able to perform some tasks previously done by their military personnel flight.

This transformation of customer service is the result of Air Force Reserve Command joining the active-duty Air Force Automated Education Management System. Under

AFAEMS, Reserve education and training offices have access to the same services as the active-duty counterparts.

302nd Airlift Wing reservists can learn more about AFVEC from the education and training office located in Bldg. 895, Room 120. (AFRC News Service)

TRICARE extends Reserve Family Demonstration Benefit until 2007

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFPN) - The TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Benefit that was due to end Oct. 31 has been extended through Oct. 31, 2007.

The Department of Defense extended the benefit for an additional two years to ensure continuity of care for family members of approximately 170,000 National Guard and Reserve members called to active duty for more than 30 days in support of Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The demonstration waives the TRICARE

annual deductible for family members who use TRICARE Extra or Standard; waives the pre-authorization requirement for non-emergency inpatient civilian care at civilian hospitals; and authorizes TRICARE to pay non-participating providers up to 115 percent of the TRICARE maximum allowable charge.

"The demonstration makes it less expensive for these family members to continue seeing their usual doctors if they take TRICARE," said Steve Lillie, deputy chief, TRICARE Operations. "The demonstration does not apply to families who enroll in

TRICARE Prime since there are no deductibles or cost shares for referred care in TRICARE Prime," Lillie said.

National Guard and Reserve members and family members with questions or in need of assistance may use the TRICARE Yellow Pages available at www.tricare.osd.mil/yellowpages to contact their TRICARE regional contractor. Up-to-date TRICARE information is also available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve.

(Courtesy of TRICARE Management Activity)

Renovation project prompts location changes

Due to a renovation project, several offices in Bldg. 895 and Bldg. 893 have moved.

The 302nd Mission Support Group offices have moved to Bldg. 893, Suite 104.

The 302nd Services Flight has moved to Bldg. 625.

All offices on the second floor of Bldg 895 have moved to the first floor. The 302nd Mission Support Flight Customer Service section is located in Room 121. 302nd MSF Personnel Relocations is in Room 122. 302nd MSF Personnel Systems Management is in Room 123. 302nd MSF Personnel Readiness Unit is in Room 128. 302nd MSF Personnel Employment is in Room 132.

The 302nd Airlift Wing Financial Management Pay office is located in Room 130 while 302nd FM Budget, Government Travel Card, Government Purchase Card and Orders Processing are all in Room 129.

The 302nd AW Safety and Recruiting offices have not moved.

The 302nd Communications Flight has moved from Bldg. 895 to Bldg. 625, except for Master Sgt. Mike Leon, 302nd CF, workgroup manager, who is in Bldg. 210. His extension is 556-5747.

All other phone numbers remain the same.

Having government travel card issues?

If you have concerns with your government travel card, see your unit point of contact if they're available or the 302nd Airlift Wing Agency Program Coordinator in Bldg. 895, Room 129, or at 556-8187.

AAFES to begin electronic check processing

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will start electronic processing of checks in January.

Now, instead of taking up to three days, checks may process instantly or in one day. The move is being made so the exchange service complies with "Check 21" legislation. Check writers must

have the funds in their account, or their check will bounce.

Electronic processing is cost-efficient since there is an automatic payment for each purchase.

Military families can track shipments online

Military families can track the status of Express Mail sent to loved ones stationed around the world. Through a new tracking service available on usps.com, military families and others who send Express Mail to service men and women can now confirm when their mail pieces have arrived at Military Post Offices anywhere in the world except combat zones. Customers can log on at usps.com and click on "Track & Confirm" and enter the tracking number from their Express Mail receipt.

The deadline for shipping packages via Express Mail Military Service is Dec. 19.

Next year, the Postal Service plans to expand this capability to track other types of mail worldwide, including combat

areas.

Family Support toy drive runs through December UTA

The 302nd Airlift Wing Family Support office is collecting toys for needy families through the December unit training assembly.

Squadrons around the wing have been asked to set up collection boxes. If no box is available at your squadron, you may bring the toy to the Family Support office.

If you know of families or organizations which could benefit from these toys, contact Family Support at 556-7678/6505/7951.

Blood donations in high demand

The U.S. military always needs blood in war zones and is depending on troops at stateside bases to donate. Many deployed members will be ineligible to donate for up to a year after they return home.

More information on the Armed Services Blood Program is available at www.militaryblood.dod.mil.

Honoring vets

Second Lt. Sharon Rice, 302nd Maintenance Squadron maintenance officer, and Eddie the Eagle joined forces with 302nd Airlift Wing members Nov. 5 to participate in the Pueblo Veteran's Day Parade Nov. 5. While they enjoyed a warm and sunny parade, other members of the 302nd AW braved a brief snowstorm and chilling temperatures to ride a wing float in the Colorado Springs Veteran's Day Parade. (Photo courtesy of Linda Casteel)



Unit Training Assembly Schedule

Dec. 3-4

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>POC</u>
S A T U R D A Y	0530 – 0800	Breakfast/Brunch	Aragon Dining Facility	SVMFA/6-4180
	0730 – 1600	Newcomers Orientation	Bldg. 893, Conference Room	DPMSC/6-8185
	0730 – 0900	No Meeting Period	All Locations	CV/6-7087
	0730 – 1630	Physical Exams	Clinic	ASTS/6-1132
	0745 – 1630	MPF Hours	Bldg. 895, First Floor	DPMSC/6-8185
	1000 – 1600	Military Clothing Sales	Bldg. 1466	LSM/6- 3227
	1100 – 1300	Lunch	Aragon Dining Facility	SVMFA/6-4180
	1100 – 1300	Lunch & a Lift	Aragon Colorado Room	HC/6-7428
	1200 – 1630	Customer Service Hours	Bldg. 895, Room 121	DPMSC/6-8185
	1215 – 1530	CDC/PME Testing	Bldg. 8625	DPMT/6-7573/7250/7950
	1300 – 1530	Self Aid/Buddy Care Refresher	Bldg. 350, Room 2127	ASTS/6-1132
	1300 – 1600	Chaplain Available	Bldg. 893, Room 143	HC/6-7428
	1400 – 1600	Wing Holiday Party	Bldg. 210, Bay 1	MX/6-4355
	1600 – 1800	Dinner	Aragon Dining Facility	SVMFA/6-4180
S U N D A Y	2000 – 2300	Late Night Carry-out	Aragon Dining Facility	SVMFA/6-4180
	0530 – 0800	Breakfast/Brunch	Aragon Dining Facility	SVMFA/6-4180
	0730 – 0830	Chiefs' Group Meeting	Silver Spruce Golf Course	CCC/6-8132
	0730 – 1200	MPF Hours	Bldg. 895, First Floor	DPMSC/6-8185
	0900 – 1000	First Sergeants Meeting	Silver Spruce Golf Course	CCF/6-8307
	1000 – 1100	Homosexual Policy Training	Bldg. 890, 2nd Floor Briefing Room	JA/6-8140
	1000 – 1100	Family Support Unit Representative Mtg.	Bldg. 895, Training Room	DPMFR/6-6505
	1200 – 1300	Junior Enlisted Advisory Council	Bldg. 350	731st AS/6-7371
	1100 – 1300	Lunch	Aragon Dining Facility	SVMFA/6-4180
	1600 – 1800	Dinner	Aragon Dining Facility	SVMFA/6-4180

✓ **Can't make the UTA but have lodging reservations? Contact Master Sgt. Terry Brassard at (719) 556-4001 or 1-800-446-9624 to cancel.**

✓ **Want an event on next month's schedule? Contact the 302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs office at (719) 556-4117 or e-mail 302aw.pa@302.peterson.af.mil.**

Newcomers

302nd Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Alvantes Cervantes
Senior Airman Joseph G. Chavez
Tech. Sgt. Edward Clark
Master Sgt. Henry C. Cossou
Staff Sgt. Ray E. Duke

Airman 1st Class Ryan A. Gilbert
Senior Airman Denise M. Hankins
Airman 1st Class Ronald T. Swain
Senior Airman Alejandro Torres

310th Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman James D. Brown
Senior Airman Kerry G. Dapron
Airman 1st Class Arvin N. Mercado
Senior Airman Michael R. Porter
Senior Airman Elizabeth S. Sperry

302nd Operations Group

Maj. Karyn L. Christen
Maj. Brock A. Larson

6th Space Operations Squadron

Second Lt. Jeremy Cotton

302nd Services Flight

Senior Airman Lea De Leon

302nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Senior Airman Carlos W. Espinosa

302nd Civil Engineer Squadron

Staff Sgt. Scott A. Forbes
Senior Airman Russell P. Milosavich

8th Space Warning Squadron

Airman 1st Class Jeffrey S. Achuff
Airman Basic Jeffrey P. Howell

39th Aerial Port Squadron

Staff Sgt. Matthew T. Ackerman
Senior Airman Joseph W. Conklin

302nd Communications Flight

Staff Sgt. Ro-An C. Betuel
Second Lt. Keith R. Smoly

310th Space Group

Maj. Justin L. Broughton

731st Airlift Squadron

Airman 1st Class Willie C. Campbell
Senior Airman Todd Heister
Capt. Bradley G. James
Capt. James Jui

Tech. Sgt. Joseph R. Kahoe
Airman Basic Rebecka M. Ortiz

302nd Aeromedical

Staging Squadron

Staff Sgt. Ana R. Alagotoro
Lt. Col. Christine Boisse

Capt. Patsy Gwin

Senior Airman Kathrynmarie Culbertson
Airman 1st Class Danielle M. Houston

Airman 1st Class Rick A. Nero

Staff Sgt. Sandra K. Scott

Airman 1st Class Kristine Ann Terronez

Airman Basic Tanya A. Watkins

7th Space Operations Squadron

Staff Sgt. Jack M. Mishler

Capt. Paul R. Plemel

302nd Mission Support Flight

Senior Airman Monique E. Ortiz

26th Space Aggressor Squadron

Maj. William A. Woolf

14th Test Squadron

Capt. Robert E. Jackson

302nd Airlift Wing

Senior Airman Katharine A. Githens

Quarterly Award Winners

Airman of the Quarter

Airman 1st Class Ryan A. Warnhoff, 302nd MXS

NCO of the Quarter

Tech. Sgt. Jorge L. Talamantes, 302nd LRS

CCAF grads

The 302nd Airlift Wing held a Community College of the Air Force graduation Nov. 5. Recipients of associates degrees are (left to right) Master Sgt. Vicki Robertson, 302nd Airlift Wing; Tech. Sgt. Carol Frost, 731st Airlift Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Jorge Talamantes, 302nd Logistics Readiness Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Matthew Steele, 302nd LRS; Staff Sgt. Jennifer Pressey, 731st AS; Staff Sgt. Wade Wittrock, 302nd LRS; Senior Master Sgt. Robert Pacheco, 302nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Master Sgt. Thaddus Montgomery, 302nd LRS; Staff Sgt. Timothy Beals, 302nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Glenn Proska, 731st AS; Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Buettner, 302nd LRS. (U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Jody Ritchie)



Sharp Troop of the Month

Name: Michelle Ashton

Rank: Technical Sergeant

Section: 302nd AW Financial Management, Reserve Pay

Job: Assistant NCO in charge of Reserve Pay

Date assigned: March 2004

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

Hobbies: Hiking, golf, working out, photography

Favorite thing about your job: Assisting customers



Tech. Sgt. Michelle Ashton with Gerard Lopez.

Supervisors - Nominate a Sharp Troop. Contact the editor of the Front Range Flyer at 302aw.pa@302. peterson.af.mil, or call (719) 556-4117, or toll free (800) 446-9624.

Promotions

Chief Master Sergeant

Richard G. Kite

Senior Master Sergeant

Kenneth J. Trousdale

Master Sergeant

Martin L. Jones

Kristen L. Lattimer

Raymond A. Lucero

Lissy L. Slezak

Technical Sergeant

Daniel L. Douglas

Michael F. Graeff

Matthew J. Jones

Peter J. LaBarre III

Carlos Mendoza

Kenneth A. Pacheco

Nicholas J. Parras

Aaron D. Thomas

Jason C. Wiley

Staff Sergeant

Eric D. Cross

Kristin D. Normandie

Rodolfo R. Ramirez

Jeannette L. Rummel

Senior Airman

Ronald K. Brown

Sean G. Carroll

Brian C. Ellsworth

Hannah F. Lictao

Matthew S. Smith

James L. Taylor

Geydy J. Tintle

Ryan A. Warnhoff

Airman 1st Class

Dana B. Payne

Family continued from page 2

strong force.

More frequent and longer deployments are becoming customary in today's reserve components. As reservists, we and our families are subjected to transitions and unique challenges our active duty counterparts are already familiar with such as different health care services and other benefits previously afforded by our civilian employers.

I would like to take this opportunity to not only thank all of our families, but also to solicit our home station members to reach out and extend a helping hand to the families that are maintaining the home front in the absence of their loved ones. I encour-

age every home station member in this wing to contact a colleague's family and offer assistance. Assistance may range from translating military jargon to shoveling a driveway or offering to baby sit. There are countless opportunities. Our efforts will not only comfort the families but also ensure them that they are part of our wing family and may just help ease the pain and loneliness they are experiencing, especially over the holidays.

Children are especially affected during the deployment process. I can still remember what it was like both times my father was deployed to Vietnam. It has far reaching effects and is life changing. There are hundreds of publications written for children,

such as "When Duty Calls," that may help children understand what is happening and alleviate some of the confusion and anxiety. We need to convey the wing family concept especially to the children. We may be able to partially fill some of the void.

Additionally, there are hundreds of resources that are available to our families. The 302nd Airlift Wing Family Support office offers a network of support services and a myriad of resource that are available to our families. Stop by and visit them in Bldg. 895, Room 125, or call 556-7678/6505/7951.

I wish all of our members and your families a joyous holiday season and best wishes in the New Year.

Thank you for your service.

HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

They're baaaaack!

By Tech. Sgt. Tim Taylor
Front Range Flyer

Fists clenched tightly, arms thrust skyward – he looked as if he'd just delivered a knockout blow.

When Master Sgt. Erin Huffaker, 39th Aerial Port Squadron, air transportation craftsman, appeared through the crew hatch atop the slow-moving C-130 aircraft, he wasn't boasting a world boxing championship. However, his gesture informed onlookers that he and 47 other Airmen from the 39th APS had returned home victorious from their contribution to the war on terrorism.

Activated last Dec. 27 and deployed in two waves in early January, the members of the 39th APS spent 10 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom while rotating between Baghdad International Airport, Iraq; Andrews Air Force Base, Md.; and Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

The 39th APS had been activated for a year, but were able to come home early. Half of the 48 members returned home Nov. 5, the rest came back Nov. 9. All were greeted in similar fashion, by flag waving, cheers

and applause, which were soon followed by hugs, kisses and tears of joy – numerous tears of joy.

While at BIAP the squadron set records for the amount of cargo and number of personnel moved. A 12-hour work day was the norm rather than the exception. In addition to their everyday duties, the aerial porters also taught the Iraqis how to run the aerial port operations, an aspect of the deployment Tech. Sgt. Dan Oldes, 39th APS, air transportation craftsman, said was the "most rewarding."

Master Sgt. Clark Power, 39th APS, A Flight team chief, summed up the time spent in Baghdad in a single sentence.

"You are out there doing the job every day, making sure the planes come in and go out," he said.

Despite the importance of the mission, it paled in comparison to the crowds of cheering family and friends who waited anxiously for the returns.

It took but a split second for Jai Lynn Firestien, clad in a cheerleading outfit, to bolt into the open arms of her father, Master Sgt. Dean Firestien, 39th APS, NCO in charge of special handling. It was some time before he was finally able to unravel her arms from around his neck.

Tech. Sgt. Gerardo Garcia, 39th APS, Crew 2 team chief, clutched his son, Ernesto, tight. Tears were evident on the face of Staff Sgt. Carlos Silva, 39th APS, air transportation craftsman, as he scooped his children into



Jai Lynn Firestien heads into the open arms of her father, Master Sgt. Dean Firestien, 39th Aerial Port Squadron, NCO in charge of special handling. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Tim Taylor)

his arms.

Leon and Ryan Ott could barely stand still while waiting for their father, Tech. Sgt. Andrew Ott, 39th APS, air transportation craftsman, while Ben and Sam Krivanek quietly colored a welcome home sign for their father, Tech. Sgt. Ronald Krivanek, 39th APS, air transportation craftsman.

Sam knew her plans for greeting her father, "claps and hugs."

"We're going to try and get things back to normal," said Leon Ott. "He left after Christmas and has been gone ever since."

There's little doubt being home at Christmas tops spending the holidays far from loved ones.



Tech. Sgt. Dan Oldes, 39th Aerial Port Squadron, air transportation craftsman, enjoys hugs from daughter and grandson, Katrina and Aden Langevin. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Tim Taylor)

302nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs
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